

SITUATION REPORT NO 3
INCIDENT NO. 96-01 (Continuation of 95-04)
DATE: February 6, 1996 TIME: 3:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flood.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: The level of Devils Lake on February 5, 1996 was 1435.18 feet M.S.L.
4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The ND State Water Commission is continuing to pursue upper basin water storage. As of February 1, 1996, 16 sites with 1,500 acre feet have been identified.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is performing maintenance on the pump inventory at Baldhill Dam in preparation for spring use.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and local officials from Devils Lake held public meetings in Lisbon and Valley City on January 31 to discuss impacts of releasing Devils Lake waters into the Sheyenne River.

As weather permits, the National Weather Service will initiate Gamma Flights in North Dakota to measure snow-pack depth and water content.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Weather Service, United States Geological Survey, and ND State Water Commission are coordinating snow survey efforts.

The ND Department of Transportation announced that road restrictions will call for a reduction in allowable loads on many ND highways and will probably remain in effect longer than normal. Wetter-than-average conditions in many parts of the state

have saturated the highways.

The ND Division of Emergency Management, the State Floodplain Manager, and FEMA have initiated a series of activities designed to promote flood insurance awareness in North Dakota. A public awareness campaign was distributed to the media through county emergency managers on February 2, 1996. On-going activities include meetings with property owners and officials seeking information on program enrollment. Canvassing area insurance agents to solicit specific complaints and concerns is also a major activity.

The State Floodplain Manager will be conducting a series of workshops for insurance agents and local floodplain administrators. The workshops are scheduled in Bismarck on February 23, Dickinson on February 27, Williston on February 28, Minot on February 29, Jamestown on March 4, Fargo on March 5, Grand Forks on March 6, and in Devils Lake on March 7.

Latest statistics tabulated, as of 11-30-95, indicate that the National Flood Insurance Program has 100 flood insurance policies in force in Ramsey County with 34 paid losses of \$165,785. Benson County has 40 flood insurance policies in force with 144 paid losses of \$43,288. The city of Devils Lake has 31 policies in force with one paid loss of \$750.

Public Assistance, FEMA-1050-DR-ND (32 counties): There have been 1,848 Damage Survey Reports (DSR's) reviewed and submitted to the Regional Processing Center (RPC) in Denver. The RPC has approved 1,390 DSR's with damage totals of \$8,111,221 for 186 applicants. State and federal shares of this damage have been distributed to the applicants. Ten applicants have not received any DSR's. Current estimates are that the public assistance figures for the 1995 flood could exceed \$12 million dollars.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance, FEMA-1050-DR-ND (32 counties): As of February 5, 1996, Job Service ND officials reported they have received 4,502 claims for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). Four thousand fifty-nine claims have been processed for payment. Four hundred forty-three claims have been denied. Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits paid so far are \$3,263,429.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
3. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: Snow depths in the Devils Lake Basin vary from 13" to 16" with 2" to 3" of water content.

The National Weather Service will release an initial forecast for Devils Lake and the season's first flood outlook for the rest of the state on February 16, 1996.

Below normal temperatures and severe wind chills struck the state the week of January 29, 1996. Low temperatures of -40 degrees were reported. Wind chills exceeded -80 degrees throughout the state on February 1, 1996.

Many local officials have raised concern over the impacts that the predicted "big thaw" may have this week. It appears such an event would not result in major flooding in western North Dakota, although ice jams could occur on some waterways. In the east channels would probably handle the thaw. Major concerns would be in pot hole areas in central North Dakota. Here water from the "big thaw" could lay on the land, wreaking havoc with transportation systems, especially school bus routes. Local officials will be monitoring road conditions closely.

The next State Flood Coordination Center Meeting is scheduled for February 29, 1996 in Devils Lake at 1:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room.

Signed _____
Douglas C. Friez, State Director